

## POLICE SHOOTINGS

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks we've seen a disturbing rash of violence against law enforcement officers around our nation.

Our nation's Blue Line—the first responders, local, state, federal police and law enforcement professionals—often represent the height of both heroism and humility. Each day they leave their families with the possibility that they might not return home—as happened to my great-uncle Philip who was killed in the line of duty in New York City.

Today, each of us can understand that events across our nation have brought about a period of great tension. And, while there is a conversation that we can have as Americans about law enforcement in 2015, the shared objective cannot be realized if we allow hate, demagoguery or violence to dehumanize any person—least of all those officers who serve our communities.

Together, we can address the challenges our nation faces head on—without partisanship, division or hate. But that will take leadership—including leadership from the President who cannot, nor should not, remain silent in the wake of these attacks.

I stand with our nation's Blue Line and we can overcome our challenges together.

TEXAS HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.  
1605**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make it known that the Texas House of Representatives through Robert Haney, the Chief Clerk of the House, has adopted House Resolution No. 1605 by Faircloth. This resolution expresses a commitment to the elimination of illegal fishing and urges Congress to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in our sovereign waters.

And that's just the way it is.

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing is a problem with serious economic, environmental, and security implications; and

Whereas, Illegal fishing accounts for economic losses of billions of dollars per year globally, and millions of those lost dollars result from poaching in the Gulf of Mexico; such activity is largely conducted by foreign fleets at the expense of United States fishermen, coastal communities, and the sustainability of global fish stocks; and

Whereas, Illegal fishing is of particular consequence in Texas, where the Gulf Coast waters supply seafood for the American public and support the hospitality industry, tourism-related businesses, and the vibrant recreational and commercial fishing industry; not only does illegal fishing result in economic losses to the Texas fishing industry and other coastal businesses, but it also is a threat to the sustainability of our fisheries and to the Texas Gulf Coast ecosystem; and

Whereas, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the United States Coast Guard are to be commended for their partnership in investigating and apprehending foreign vessels engaged in illegal activity along the Texas-Mexico border; and

Whereas, Foreign nationals fishing illegally in U.S. waters compete for local stock, and they disregard state and federal laws on catch limits; when they sell their fish in the United States, they can flood the market with a cheaper product; moreover, they often use banned longline netting that imperils marine mammals and sea turtles; and

Whereas, Vessels involved with illegal fishing are also associated with other crimes, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal immigration, and the incursion by these foreign fishing vessels into U.S. waters constitutes a violation of our sovereignty; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas Legislature hereby express its commitment to the elimination of illegal fishing, to the long-term conservation of Texas marine resources, and to the protection of the Texas Gulf Coast fishing and coastal communities; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas House of Representatives hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to take action to protect our coastal borders and to end illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in our sovereign waters; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,085,083,623.06. We've added \$7,524,208,034,709.98 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS' VOICES  
AWARD RECIPIENT SCOTT GLEW**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Glew of Elk River for receiving a Veterans' Voices "On the Rise" Award.

Scott spent eight years in the Minnesota Army National Guard and was deployed to Iraq. Scott strongly believes that if we encourage students across the country to become more informed and active citizens, we can im-

prove the future of our country. To act on this, Scott decided to begin his career as a social studies teacher following his service to our country.

Scott has not let his passion for education stop at the classroom door. He is an active leader within his school district and serves on the Board of Directors for both the Minnesota Council for History Education and the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. Additionally, Scott is currently in graduate school at the University of Minnesota researching citizenship and peace.

I admire Scott for everything that he has done to better this country and his community. He is the exact type of person who should be teaching because he is the epitome of an excellent role model. I thank him for his service and for helping educate Minnesota's children. Scott—well done and keep up the amazing work.

## LT. CALVIN SPANN

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Calvin Spann, who passed away this last Sunday, September 6, 2015 at his home in Allen, Texas.

Lt. Spann was born on November 28, 1924 and grew up in Rutherford, NJ. While growing up near the local Teterboro Airport, he was inspired to fly. He learned about the physics of flying while a student at Rutherford High School, and at eighteen he volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps in the heat of World War II to pursue his dream of flying.

It was in 1943 at Tuskegee, Alabama that Lt. Spann started his aviation cadet training. Not only did he withstand a brutal and rigorous training program, he overcame a selective quota system at a time when all branches of the U.S. Armed Services were segregated. He was determined and focused to earn his wings. Soon after, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

He was sent to Italy as a replacement combat pilot and joined hundreds of other black men that would comprise the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Created in 1940, the all-black flying unit was a result of Public Law 18, which established civilian pilot training programs at 166 colleges and universities across the country. This law eventually led to the expansion of the Army Air Corps.

Lt. Spann was a member of the elite 100th Fighter Squadron, part of the 332nd Fighter Group and piloted the powerful P-51 Mustang. His service as a fighter pilot included 26 combat missions over Nazi controlled Germany. He participated in the longest bomber escort mission in the 15th Air Force history: a 1,600-mile, round trip mission, from Ramitelli, Italy, to Berlin with the objective of destroying the Daimler-Benz manufacturing plant.

As public opinion toward the Tuskegee Airman changed, Lt. Spann's accomplishments finally came to light. The discrimination he faced during training contrasted greatly with the praise he received from the bombers, whom he escorted. Through his service and